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**\*\*\*NEWS ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Actress Blythe Danner Raises the Curtain on Addiction**  
*NIDA's "Addiction Performance Project" for docs to launch in D.C. April 16th*

Actress Blythe Danner leads an impressive cast in the [Addiction Performance Project](#), an innovative continued medical education (CME) program for doctors and other health providers, next Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Hilton. The performance is a project of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and is designed to help doctors and other health professionals better identify and help drug-abusing patients in primary care settings, and to break down the stigma associated with drug addiction.

Research suggests that primary care providers could significantly help reduce drug abuse; yet many express concern that they lack the experience or tools to identify drug use in their patients. The program will begin with a dramatic reading of Act III of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*, with Blythe Danner reading the part of Mary Tyrone, the morphine addicted matriarch of a family devastated by addiction. It will be followed by an expert panel reaction, which will include NIDA director Nora D. Volkow, MD, and facilitated audience discussion to foster compassion, cooperation, and understanding for addicted patients and their families. The project is part of [NIDAMED](#), NIDA's outreach to practicing physicians, physicians in training, and other health professionals. The *Addiction Performance Project* has a limited run during 2011 and 2012.

All performances are free of charge, but seating is limited, and registration is recommended. There will be a preview performance at Georgetown University Medical School on April 15.

*If you are a journalist and want to attend the D.C. performance, please send an email to:*  
[media@nida.nih.gov](mailto:media@nida.nih.gov).

**NOTE:** *In the event of a government shutdown, visit:*  
<http://nidaapp.jbsinternational.com/Register.aspx> for the status of the D.C. performance.

**WHAT:**      **NIDA's *Addiction Performance Project***

**WHEN:**      Saturday, April 16, 2011  
6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009

**WHO:** **Featured Actors (subject to change)**

Blythe Danner (Mary Tyrone)

Harris Yulin (James Tyrone)

Bryce Pinkham (Edmund Tyrone)

Sara Waisanen (Cathleen)

**Featured Panel Members**

Nora Volkow, MD  
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

Jeff Baxter, MD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health  
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Dr. Robert Taylor, MD  
Dean, Howard University Medical School

**PREVIEW PERFORMANCE:**

Georgetown University Medical School  
12:00-1:00pm, Friday, April 15  
Preclinical Sciences Building, Room LA-4  
3900 Reservoir Road, Washington, D.C. 20007

Follow *Addiction Performance Project* news on Twitter at [@NIDANews](https://twitter.com/NIDANews), or join the conversation by using: #nidaAPP.

For more information on the *Addiction Performance Project*, visit:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/APP>.

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The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov). To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's new DrugPubs

research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or fax or email requests to 240-645-0227 or [drugpubs@nida.nih.gov](mailto:drugpubs@nida.nih.gov). Online ordering is available at <http://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov>. NIDA's new media guide can be found at <http://drugabuse.gov/mediaguide>.

**About the National Institutes of Health (NIH):** NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov).